

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**



23 APR 19 P1:28

**SENATE  
S.B. No. 2077**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BALIKBAYAN HUB,  
AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) RESTING LOUNGE,  
IN ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS WHICH CATER FLIGHTS TO AND OUT  
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

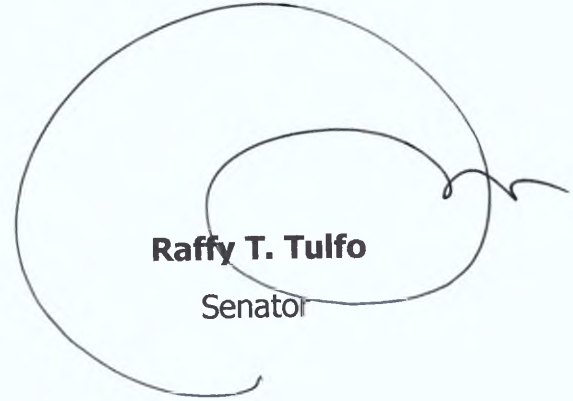
Explanatory Note

Hailed as “modern-day heroes”, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) play a crucial role in the Philippine economy. First, OFWs send a significant amount of money to their families in the form of remittances. In 2022, the central bank revealed that personal remittances by OFWs reached a record high of 36.14 billion US dollars which accounted for 8.9% of the Philippines’ gross domestic product (GDP). In addition, OFWs also serve as ambassadors of the country and help strengthen diplomatic relations with their respective host countries. With that said, the invaluable contributions of OFWs are integral to the overall economic growth and development of the Philippines, and their continued support and protection must be one of the top priorities of the government.

Despite their importance to the country, there are many OFWs who have experienced several issues within various international airports in the world. Numerous OFWs are forced to sleep on benches of airports, while others forego their meals in order to have enough money to arrive at their intended destination. With this being said, this proposed measure aims to provide a resting lounge, called the Balikbayan Hub, within every international airport which cater flights to and out of the Philippines. The purpose of these resting lounges is to cater to the welfare of OFWs through the

provision of necessary facilities and amenities that would make them comfortable until their departure.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**Raffy T. Tulfo**  
Senator



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress Assembled:*

1        **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Balikbayan Hub Act*".

2  
3        **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
4 to recognize the importance of Overseas Filipino Workers as the driving force of the  
5 country's economic growth. As such, the State shall adopt measures that will promote  
6 their overall welfare, one of which is providing a resting lounge in all international  
7 airports which cater flights to and out of the Philippines.

8  
9        **Sec. 3. Establishment of the Balikbayan Hub.** – The National Government  
10 through the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Overseas Workers Welfare  
11 Administration (OWWA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the  
12 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall establish the Balikbayan Hub, an OFW  
13 Resting Lounge, in all international airports which cater flights to and out of the  
14 Philippines which caters to the welfare of all active Overseas Filipino Workers with  
15 existing contracts.

1           **Sec. 4. Purpose and Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following  
2 purpose and objectives:

- 3           a. Establish, operate, and maintain the Balikbayan Hub situated in every  
4 international airport which cater flights to and out of the Philippines,  
5 which are equipped with the necessary amenities and facilities that could  
6 be used by all active OFWs with existing contracts; and  
7           b. These Balikbayan Hubs shall serve as the primary resting area for all  
8 active OFWs with existing contracts flying to or out of the country where  
9 they can relax while waiting for their respective flights.

10  
11           **Sec. 5. Facilities and Amenities.** – For the purpose of this Act, all Balikbayan  
12 Hubs in every international airport which cater flights to and out of the Philippines  
13 shall have the following facilities and amenities, including but not limited to:

- 14           a. Sleeping quarters;  
15           b. Free internet stations/high-speed internet;  
16           c. Complimentary charging stations;  
17           d. Showers and restrooms;  
18           e. Complimentary snacks and drinks; and  
19           f. Monitors and/or speakers to track flight information and  
20 announcements.

21  
22           **Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW),  
23 Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Department of Labor and  
24 Employment (DOLE), and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall cover the  
25 necessary appropriations for the implementation of this Act through a cost-sharing  
26 scheme. The said funds for the construction and maintenance of the Balikbayan Hubs  
27 shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

28  
29           **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of  
30 Migrant Workers (DMW), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA),  
31 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Foreign Affairs

1 (DFA), and other stakeholders shall promulgate the implementing rules and  
2 regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

3

4 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
5 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
6 provisions hereof.

7

8 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
9 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of  
10 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11

12 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*